

REMARKS

To facilitate the further examination of the application, all the claims that were finally rejected have been canceled and replaced by a new set of Claims 27-46. The new claims were drafted in a manner to more clearly define the present invention and to more sharply distinguish it over the references cited in the final rejection.

The previous claims were rejected as being unpatentable over Cline et al in view of applicant's admission of the prior art.

The present application, particularly as now defined in new Claims 27-46, relates to pulsator apparatus for applying pressure-pulses to the outer surface of a body, particularly useful in pressure-pulse therapy. Such apparatus is to be sharply distinguished from the apparatus in Cline et al, which is a heating apparatus for performing surgery by vibrational heating. Thus, Claim 27, which is the only independent claim, recites a number of features which are not, and would not, be present in the vibrational heating apparatus of Cline et al, including a flexible diaphragm enclosing the open end of the enclosure and adapted to be brought into contact with the surface of the body to receive the pressure pulses, and a liquid pulse-transmitting medium within the enclosure between the pressure-pulse source and the flexible diaphragm. It is submitted, therefore, that Claim 27 clearly distinguishes over Cline et al.

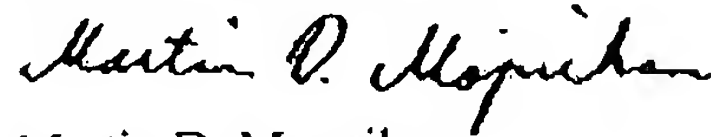
The prior art as briefly described in the Background section of the present application refers to previous devices for pressure-pulse therapy or shock-wave therapy, and therefore would hardly be combinable with Cline et al relating to heating apparatus.

Claim 27 is drawn as a generic claim, to cover the two different types of implementations described in the specification, namely the acoustical reflector implementation as illustrated in Figs. 5, 6 and 8, for example, and the acoustical lens implementation as illustrated in Fig. 7, for example. Thus, Claim 27 recites "an acoustical coupling member"; Claim 33 recites this member as "an acoustical reflector", whereas Claim 35 recites it as "an acoustical lens". While Cline et al discloses a lens construction, this patent clearly does not disclose, or render obvious, the pulsator apparatus for applying pressure-pulses to the outer surface of a body, as now defined in independent Claim 27 or in the dependent claims.

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It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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